should be cleared, widened and deepened and kept in good order. This was also one of the works selected at the P. W. D. conference of 1914.

Several old water-courses flowing into the backwater should be kept in repair so as to avoid damage to cultivation from floods in the western *pakuthies*. The opening of the outlet at the proper time during the rainy season to the sea from the Kayankulam backwater when it became closed owing to natural causes was necessary for the protection of the fields on the western side of the taluk, as also Kartikapalli and Mavelikara. Much loss had been caused by the delay in recent years in opening the bar. The Member requested that a proper place on the beach might be selected to open the bar and the opening might be entrusted to a respectable landlord of the locality or the neighbourhood.

Karunagapalli suffered from scarcity of water during summer months and in consequence the crops got dried up. An investigation might be made to see whether a dam and a lake might be constructed in the upper portion of the Kulakkada river for irrigating the lands in this and the neighbouring taluks or whether the taluk might be irrigated from the fresh water lake at Sastamkotta. If neither of the above schemes was feasible, large tanks might be constructed in connection with the canals for storing up water for irrigation purposes.

The Member realised that it might not be possible for Government to deal with each taluk on such a scale as described above. Since, however, for a long time past, Government were neglecting Karunagapalli, the people of that place had a special claim on Government for some years until justice was done to it in comparison with other areas which had been specially favoured during the past.

Lastly, the Member suggested the desirability of organising local boards and making proper arrangements for meeting local needs. He said that, considering the nature of the locality, its needs and the sums already spent by Government for public works, an equitable percentage of income should be allowed to each such board, which should be given the powers necessary for the control of the sum, and that the allotment might be revised from time to time according to circumstances in each case.

Dewan's reply.—I am sorry that you did not give me in advance a list of the points on which you were proposing to speak. Then, I should have been in a position to tell you how matters stood in respect of each and every item, whereas I can now give you only a general reply. I admit that Karunagapalli taluk is handicapped for want of communications. But it is a taluk where road-making is very costly on account of the sandy and slushy nature of the soil. I believe the same is the case with the Kartikapalli taluk also. These two taluks are receiving special attention. Sections of the Quilon-Alleppey road in both the taluks have been given special allotments this year and we propose to complete this arterial road first. There are still four miles, I think, which have got to be made up in the Karunagapalli taluk. Each of these four miles means about Rs. 15,000. That is the first thing to be attended to, and then the other communications that you have mentioned must be taken up gradually. Your suggestion in regard to local boards is a very good one. A Bill on this subject is ready and will shortly be published. These boards can be given administrative powers; they can say which work is urgent and which not, and they can be given grants for carrying out the urgent works.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS.

69. Certain suggestions for the more efficient protection of public interests through the Legislative Council.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that the object of his representation was to concentrate the attention of both the Government and the people on the necessity of making the Executive Government responsible to the duly elected representatives of the people in the Legislative Council. He pointed out that the people were the natural defenders of their own purses

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and that no Government could be trusted in the absence of the constant and unsleeping vigilance of public opinion. He also pointed out the dangers arising from a bureaucratic system of Government, the 'knots' and 'groups' of men feeding on the public industry, the increased expenditure of the State on the plea of efficiency and the presence of men who, seeking popularity, prevailed on the Government to undertake reforms, enterprises, etc., all tending to press forward expenditure. The Member proceeded to sketch the present condition of the administrative system of Travancore and remarked that the administrative machinery had become unbearably top-heavy, and the Government officials self-seeking and arrogant, caring nothing for the welfare of the people, while their work was unsatisfactory, with the result that the Government had become an agency for exploiting the many for the unjust gains and the luxuries of the few. He also said, in this connection, that even the Education Department was not worth a tittle of the money spent upon it and that the kind of education imparted tended to accentuate the distress of the people rather than to train up boys and girls. After attempting to contradict such statements as the unfitness of the people to manage their own affairs and the existence of racial and caste hostility and by drawing illustrations from the history of Europe and America, the Member stated that the best remedy, even when social disunion existed, was the organisation of responsible government. He suggested that the Executive Government should be made effectively responsible to the duly elected representatives of the people and proceeded to outline his well-considered plan for establishing responsible Government in the State as follows :—

1. The Dewan should be made responsible to the Legislative Council by means of an Executive Council or Cabinet to be formed by H. H. The Maha Raja in consultation with the elected members of the Legislative Council.

2. The Cabinet or the Executive Council, of which the Dewan would be the head, should be collectively responsible to the Legislative Council for all their actions.

3. The Legislative Council should have power to discuss, to ask questions and to pass resolutions on the annual budget and all other matters concerning the public interests of the State, subject to the veto and controlling authority of H. H. the Maha Raja and the Paramount Power in all matters which, at present, required their sanction. In all other matters the decision of the Legislative Council should bind the Executive Government.

A reference was then made to the incident of the 5th Kanni 1097 in connection with the students' strikes and the fluctuations in the budget estimates of the revenue and receipts of 1095 and 1096 and in increasing the expenditure of the State, as indicating the urgent necessity for the speedy establishment of responsible government. The exclusion of railways, sea-ports, State charities, etc., from the purview of the Legislative Council as per Regulation II of 1097 was also adverted to by the Member as detrimental to the public interests.

Dewan's reply.—I propose to wait and hear the other two speakers on the same subject before I give my answer to your representation.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M.

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